

2007 EPA Region 3 Volunteer Monitoring Conference

Shenandoah University

October 12-13, 2007

Biography of Speakers

Keynote Speaker

Michael Haire- United States Environmental Protection Agency

Michael Haire has been with EPA's, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, since 1999. Mr. Haire has worked closely with the states, and Regions to address technical, policy, and fiscal issues associated with the identification of impaired waters. To this end, he has led agency efforts in issuing guidance on developing Integrated Reports and in developing and reviewing complex TMDLs, especially on the watershed scale.

Prior to his employment with EPA, Mr. Haire worked for the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) as the Director of the Technical and Regulatory Services Administration. In this position, Mr. Haire was responsible for the State's water quality standards program, the water quality monitoring program, the shellfish certification program, the TMDL program, the environmental health program and the emergency response program. Before coming to MDE, Mr. Haire worked in private industry for J.E. Greiner Engineering and the Martin Marietta Corporation. Mr. Haire holds undergraduate degrees in civil engineering and biology and graduate degrees in marine biology and business administration.

Morning Concurrent Session- CSI

CSI-A: Using Volunteer Data at the Local, Watershed, State, and Regional Level

Heather Barrar- Chesterfield County Office of Water Protection

Heather Barrar is the Environmental Outreach Coordinator for the Chesterfield County Office of Water Quality. Heather earned a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, TX and a Master of Environmental Studies from Virginia Commonwealth University. Influenced by both her childhood travels to our nation's parks and volunteering at an early age along side her parents, Heather has found a career that combines both her interests of the environment and volunteering. Heather was an active member of Alpha Phi Omega, a national service organization in college and now serves as an advisor with her husband to a local Richmond chapter. She often finds herself volunteering for a variety of projects on the weekend from photographing a children's dog show to organizing a 10K race.

James Beckley- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

James Beckley has a degree in biology, is a graduate of Longwood College, and comes to DEQ by way of the Sussex Service Authority where he was the Laboratory Manager for their Wastewater Treatment Plant. James' main duties as Water Quality Data Liaison in DEQ's Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Program include: researching, soliciting, and analyzing non-agency water quality monitoring data for use in the Water Quality Assessments, incorporating such data into usable databases, administering citizen requests for agency monitoring and recommending locations for agency follow-up as a result of citizen and other non-agency water quality monitoring findings, and providing technical assistance for citizen and non-agency water quality monitoring programs.

Ginger North- Delaware Nature Society

Ginger North is the Stream Watch Coordinator for the Delaware Nature Society. Previously she was Stream Watch Assistant Coordinator, the Technical Monitoring Assistant in the Natural Resource Conservation Department, and a Naturalist in the Education Department all for the Delaware Nature Society.

She received a Masters of Science degree in Genetics from the University of Delaware, and Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Marine Biology from the University of Long Island. She taught biology laboratories for four years at the University of Delaware. She also has an extensive background in Quality Control, both in clinical microbiology laboratory and in a hospital endocrinology laboratory.

Cheryl Snyder- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Cheryl Snyder works as a biologist in the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Watershed Management and is DEP's Citizens' Volunteer Monitoring Coordinator. She coordinates various activities for this statewide program and provides assistance to volunteer monitors in water quality sampling, biological monitoring, habitat assessment, streamside physical monitoring and watershed restoration project monitoring as well as helping volunteers develop study designs for their monitoring programs. Cheryl has worked in a number of water programs for Pennsylvania DEP over the last 21 years.

CSI-B: Associating Water Quality Data with Land Use and BMP Performance

Chuck Hoysa- John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District

Chuck has been the Conservation Education Specialist for the John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District for the last 4 years. In addition to conducting school programs and organizing youth field days, he does both chemical and macroinvertebrate monitoring on numerous streams in Fauquier County. Prior to working for John Marshall, Chuck served as an Extension Agent for the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, retiring in 2002 after a 27 year career. He has college degrees from the University of New Hampshire and Virginia Tech.

David S. Lazarus- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

Dave is with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Watershed Programs. His principle responsibilities are TMDL Program planning and coordination, fund management, and the contracting and oversight of Virginia's TMDL projects.

Dana Walker- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Dana Walker works in the Citizens' Volunteer Monitoring Program at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in Harrisburg, PA where she provides statewide assistance and training for volunteer stream and lake monitoring programs to support DEP programs and volunteer monitoring efforts. She has also served as a water quality specialist for DEP's Southeast Regional Office in the Water Management Program, working with the regulated community and responding to water pollution incidents and discharges. Prior to working for DEP, Dana was the Watershed Programs Coordinator for the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, where she instructed students about natural history and watershed education, and provided professional development for teachers within the Philadelphia region. She also acted as the statewide training coordinator and quality control officer for the Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps, a volunteer water monitoring program in Pennsylvania.

CSI-C: Understanding Water Quality Standards

Danielle Donkersloot- NJ Department of Environmental Protection

Biography currently unavailable

Jean W. Gregory- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

Jean Gregory is an Environmental Manager II in the Office of Water Quality Programs of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. She manages the Water Quality Standards and Biological Programs unit, which is responsible for the state water quality standards regulation and collection/assessment of fish and sediment for contaminants.

Jean has spent her entire career in State government. For 14 years, she was a member of the adjunct faculty at Virginia Commonwealth University, teaching an undergraduate environmental science course for the Dept. of Urban Studies and Planning.

She received a B.S. in biology from the University of Mary Washington when it was the women's division of the University of Virginia, a M.S. in biology from Virginia Commonwealth University and a M. A. in environmental science from the University of Virginia under an EP A fellowship. She also completed all of the course work - but not the dissertation - for a doctorate in public administration from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Linda Keller- West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection

Ms. Keller is an Environmental Resources Analyst with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection assigned to the Division of Water and Waste Management involved in water quality standards. She works on the development and research of water quality standards/criteria issues through evaluation and review of scientific and statistical data.

Prior to joining WVDEP, Ms. Keller worked as a program manager for the Environmental Engineering Division of the WV Office of Environmental Health Services overseeing the data management, compliance, and enforcement issues involving WV public drinking water systems.

Ms. Keller also spent 20 years with the Ashland Petroleum Company as a senior chemist in the Environmental Support Section laboratories coordinating and managing laboratory and field environmental projects. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from Samford University.

Lunch Speaker

David K. Paylor- Director, Department of Environmental Quality

David K. Paylor was appointed director of the Department of Environmental Quality by Governor Tim Kaine in January 2006. Previously, he was deputy secretary of natural resources for Governor Mark Warner, overseeing all the natural resource agencies of the Commonwealth.

Paylor's career began in 1973 with the State Water Control Board and continued with DEQ. He began as a field biologist and held a variety of positions after that as an aquatic ecologist, water resources manager, director of petroleum programs, and director of operations. Paylor currently is vice president of the Environmental Council of the States.

Paylor graduated from Duke University with a bachelor's degree in zoology and received his master's degree from Oregon State University in fisheries science. He and his wife Lesa have two children, Kelsey and Grant. His hobbies include camping, canoeing and woodworking.

Afternoon Concurrent Session- CSII

CSII-A: Relaying Results: Sending Your Data in Regional, State, and Federal Databases

James Beckley- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

James Beckley has a degree in biology, is a graduate of Longwood College, and comes to DEQ by way of the Sussex Service Authority where he was the Laboratory Manager for their Wastewater Treatment Plant. James' main duties as Water Quality Data Liaison in DEQ's Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Program include: researching, soliciting, and analyzing non-agency water quality monitoring data for use in the Water Quality Assessments, incorporating such data into usable databases, administering citizen requests for agency monitoring and recommending locations for agency follow-up as a result of citizen and other non-agency water quality monitoring findings, and providing technical assistance for citizen and non-agency water quality monitoring programs.

Dr. Thomas Benzing- James Madison University

Dr. Thomas Benzing is a professor in the Integrated Science and Technology department at James Madison University. His primary teaching responsibilities and research interests are in the fields of soil and water chemistry. Dr. Benzing is a certified nutrient management planner in Virginia and works with the Shenandoah Valley Pure Water Forum to improve the local understanding of water quality issues. He has directed and advised many undergraduate student projects on nutrient pollution and management.

Dr. Benzing received his PhD from Michigan State University in Crop and Soil Sciences and Environmental Toxicology in 1993. He also received an MS in Organic Chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh and a BS in Chemistry from Franklin and Marshall College. He is a member of the American Chemical Society and the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

Dwane Young- United States Environmental Protection Agency

Mr. Young works for the Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and has a degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management from Utah State University. He has spent the last seven years working on environmental data management systems. He served as the lead developer for EPA's Integrated Reporting Assessment Database (ADB), and has helped numerous states implement the ADB. Mr. Young has also been critical in implementing STORET in numerous states. Over the past two years, Mr. Young has led the development of the Water Quality Exchange, and has focused specifically on ways to help users through the transition from STORET to WQX.

CSII-B: Unconventional Water Quality Monitoring

Deborah Debiasi- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

Biography currently unavailable

Mary Gessner and John Holmes- Friends of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River

Mary Gessner has a master's degree in natural resources. She recently retired after a 27year career as a fishery biologist and program manager with the Federal government, including positions with the Environmental Protection Agency, National Marine Fisheries Service and Fish and Wildlife Service. She serves on the Board of the Friends of the North Fork of the Shenandoah and as a Shenandoah County Director on the Lord Fairfax Soil and Water Conservation District.

John Holmes has an undergraduate degree in chemistry and a master's degree in environmental engineering. He is an environmental consultant and formerly worked for the USEPA air and water programs. John also serves on the Board of the Friends of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River and is a member of the Shenandoah River Fish Kill Task Force.

Don Kain- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

Don Kain is the Water Compliance and Monitoring Manager for DEQ's Valley Regional Office, in Harrisonburg, VA. He is responsible for supervising and managing regional Water Quality Monitoring, Biological Monitoring, and Facility Inspections Programs. Along with Steve Reeser of VA Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries, Don is co-chair of the Shenandoah River Fish Kill Task Force, a multidisciplinary team investigating the possible causes of mysterious fish kills in the forks of the Shenandoah River. He has worked for DEQ for nearly 20 years. Before coming to Virginia State Government, Don worked in water monitoring and biological programs for 7 years for the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources. He has a B.A. in Economics from the University of VA, a B.S. in Fisheries Science from Virginia Tech, and an M.S. in Fisheries Biology from Tennessee Tech. Don is a native of Virginia and enjoys canoeing, fishing and other outdoor activities

Dr. Carolyn Thomas- Ferrum College

Biography currently unavailable

CSII-C: Community Outreach and Successful Collaborations

Joanna Cornell- Northern VA Soil and Water Conservation District

Biography currently unavailable

Ginger North- Delaware Nature Society

Ginger North is the Stream Watch Coordinator for the Delaware Nature Society. Previously she was Stream Watch Assistant Coordinator, the Technical Monitoring Assistant in the Natural Resource Conservation Department, and a Naturalist in the Education Department all for the Delaware Nature Society.

She received a Masters of Science degree in Genetics from the University of Delaware, and Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Marine Biology from the University of Long Island. She taught biology laboratories for four years at the University of Delaware. She also has an extensive background in Quality Control, both in clinical microbiology laboratory and in a hospital endocrinology laboratory.

Llyn Sharp- Virginia Tech

Llyn Sharp is the Outreach Coordinator for the Department of Geosciences at Virginia Tech. She is also one of the coordinators for VT STEM, the university's science, technology, engineering, and math K-12 outreach initiative. Llyn is a member of the Virginia Resource Use Education Council (VRUEC), working with the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience committee. She has a BS in Geology and a Master's in Education, and has spent much of her career working with informal science education in museums, and focusing on teacher professional development in hands-on science. Llyn has been a trainer for the Virginia Save Our Streams (VaSOS) program in the New River watershed since 1994. She has incorporated this citizen monitoring program into teacher workshops since 1995, and has developed a correlation of VaSOS to the Standards of Learning.

Saturday Field Trips and Laboratory Sessions

Field Trip 1: Cave Field Trip- Hosted by Friends of the Shenandoah River

Field Trip 2: Habitat Assessment- Stacey Brown, Virginia Save Our Streams

Biography currently unavailable

Field Trip 3: Rain Barrel Workshop- Karen Anderson, Friends of the Shenandoah River

Biography currently unavailable

Laboratory Session 1: Coliscan Training- James Beckley, Virginia DEQ

James Beckley has a degree in biology, is a graduate of Longwood College, and comes to DEQ by way of the Sussex Service Authority where he was the Laboratory Manager for their Wastewater Treatment Plant. James' main duties as Water Quality Data Liaison in DEQ's Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Program include: researching, soliciting, and analyzing non-agency water quality monitoring data for use in the Water Quality Assessments, incorporating such data into usable databases, administering citizen requests for agency monitoring and recommending locations for agency follow-up as a result of citizen and other non-agency water quality monitoring findings, and providing technical assistance for citizen and non-agency water quality monitoring programs.

Laboratory Session 2: GIS Workshop- Gary Keppesser, Virginia Save Our Streams

Gary Kappesser recently retired as a hydrologist with the U.S. Forest Service. He spent most of his career working in Utah and Idaho. He has worked on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests in Virginia since 1993. Gary used GIS technology extensively for watershed assessment and monitoring activities. He participated in the development of GIS models to identify areas of high risk for landslides, to evaluate aquatic ecological sustainability, and to calculate watershed areas above road stream crossings. He was a member of a national teaching cadre for courses in watershed assessment and restoration, and also geology and ecosystem management. Gary developed and published the Riffle Stability Index monitoring procedure to evaluate stream channel condition that is currently used by water quality management agencies in several states. He is currently working as a volunteer with Virginia Save Our Streams.

Laboratory Session 3: Data to info Workshop- Julie Vastine, ALLARM

Biography currently unavailable